

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 19 and 20 are independent.

Claims 1,2,4-9, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are rejected over Lang '492 in view of Boukobza '664 for the reasons discussed on pages 2-7 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverse all art rejections.

Without conceding the propriety of the stated rejections, Applicant submit herewith a Rule 131 Declaration by inventor Nathanson to antedate U.S. Patent No. 6,295,492 to Lang. Thus, the rejections of independent Claims 1, 19 and 20 (and their dependent claims) have been overcome.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attnorney for Applicant
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
525 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061